

Sub B7

1. (Amended) A system for monitoring the operation of computer programs by collecting software related events relating to a plurality of target programs, each program running on a respective target processor, and each target processor being located on a separate system bus, the system comprising:

a plurality of event collection cards, each receiving software related events from a respective one of the plurality of target programs, wherein each of the plurality of event collection cards and the respective one of the target programs are installed on the same system bus, and wherein each event collection card includes:

 a time stamp clock for providing a time stamp when each event is received;

 an event memory for storing the received events;

 a sync interface unit for receiving a sync signal;

 a sync control unit for synchronizing the time stamp clock to the sync signal received by the sync interface; and

 a collection control unit for time stamping the collected events according to the time stamp clock synchronized to the sync signal, and for storing the time stamped events in the event memory.

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16. (Amended) An apparatus for monitoring the operation of computer programs by collecting computer program events, the apparatus comprising:

 an event collection card for receiving the computer program events, wherein the event collection card includes:

 a time stamp clock for providing a time stamp indicating when each event is received;

an event memory for storing the received events;
a sync interface unit for receiving a sync signal;
a sync control unit for synchronizing the time stamp clock to the sync signal received by the sync interface; and
a collection control unit for time stamping the collected events according to the time stamp clock synchronized to the sync signal, and for storing the time stamped events in the event memory.

28. (Amended) In a system having a plurality of target programs, each program running on a respective target processor, and each target processor being located on a separate system bus, wherein each of a plurality of event collection cards and a respective one of the target programs are installed on the same system bus, wherein each event collection card performs a method for monitoring the operation of computer programs, comprising:

receiving software related events from the respective one of the plurality of target programs;
storing the received events in an event memory;
receiving a sync signal;
synchronizing a time stamp clock to a received sync signal;
time stamping the collected events according to the time stamp clock synchronized to the sync signal; and
storing the time stamped events in the event memory.